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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 329

amendment, understand the irony of this whole situation. The countryside out there, to the extent that it has problems with the pollution and the ground water, has problems from nitrates, which come from fertilizers; 95 percent or more of the problem is a nitrate problem from fertilizer. The pesticides, including atrazine, at some point and time in the future, may develop into a more serious problem, but right now they are not the serious problem, nor is any other pesticide besides atrazine. And yet this bill takes \$1 million from pesticide people to fund the nitrate groundwater problem. And in my mind there is absolutely...well, I should say not absolutely none, but there is very little logic to this. But if we're going to dig in our heels and say, by golly, there's not going to be a fertilizer tax, all right, tax the pesticide people, but it doesn't make any sense; it should be a 95 percent tax on the fertilizer and a 5 percent tax on the pesticides. But that's not what we're doing today. But again, I suppose part of the matter is the same people who put pesticides on their fields put fertilizer on the fields. So maybe the innate unfairness of this...of all of this is not as great as one might imagine. But, with that, I would withdraw this particular amendment, Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Beutler, I now have AM1970. (Legislative Journal page 1948.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, Senator Wickersham, Senator Schrock, this is the one amendment that I hope you will take seriously, and the reason that I hope you will take it seriously is because it goes to the authenticity of the solution that you're suggesting. Members of the Legislature, if you read through the material you've been given, you will note that the purported replacement for the \$2.5 million of fertilizer tax that was lost consists of this roughly \$1 million in pesticide fee, roughly a quarter of a million dollars in General Funds, and then the rest of it, the rest of it, under this scheme, anticipates that a 60 percent match, that's a very high match by the way, we...we almost never